

Susan Lueders Testimony on HB 4730

Committee on Regulatory Reform

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

327 House Office Building

Good Morning Madam Chairwoman and members of the committee. Thank you for allowing us to speak today. My name is Susie Lueders and next to me is Richard Lueders and we are here today on behalf of our son Tom, who on December 27th of last year was taken from us by Carbon Monoxide Poisoning.

I am not a politician; I don't lead people or write laws. I work for a human resources consulting firm in Southfield and have lived here in Michigan for about 15 years. Tom was my step-son.

I cannot quote to you the number of people that die every year from Carbon Monoxide poisoning or tell you how many other states have Carbon Monoxide laws. I can only tell you about our son Tom, how he fit into this world, and what he meant to his father, his sister Katie and me.

I could go on and on about what a good boy he was and what a good heart he had. I could describe how much he enjoyed going to school at Grosse Point South and playing soccer there. But I think the best way to tell you about Tom, is to tell you about the way people remember him.

Since Tom's death, we have received hundreds of letters and phone calls. And they all seem to have the same story to tell us. That Tom made a lasting

impression on everyone he met. That his gregarious, outgoing personality made him the type of guy who was everyone's best friend.

It even surprised us a little when so many of his friends described how good of a listener Tom was. How he was someone they went to for advice. But really, we should not have been surprised at all. Tom had a gift of being able to relate to everyone.

Tom was an English major at Boston College and talked often about making a living as a writer. But he often said if his writing career never took off, he could just as easily become a psychologist and make a life out of helping others.

The last time I talked with my son was the day after Christmas. Tom called me and told me how much fun he was having. How much he enjoyed spending time with his father, and that he would see me soon.

Tom had just started out in life, and now there are so many things that he won't be. Because of what happened in his hotel room, Tom will never be a writer. Tom will never be a psychologist. He won't be someone's good listener or be able to become anyone else's best friend. He won't have the chance to be a husband or father.

But because he is no longer with us, it is my hope that his memory will become something. I hope that people become aware of this danger and do something about it.

I hope that you all agree with me today, and help make that happen by passing this good bill.